

# Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

**Table 68.**

**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2006**

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>b</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>c</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>d</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>e</sup>		
<i>All ages <sup>f</sup></i>									
1992	1,828,951	0	134,438	741,839	1,556	860,875	90,243	47.1	56.1
1993	2,048,945	0	141,214	937,757	1,600	878,932	89,442	42.9	50.8
1994	2,014,499	0	123,175	1,041,432	1,681	770,905	77,306	38.3	44.8
1995	1,845,212	0	103,335	995,185	1,344	683,850	61,498	37.1	42.8
1996	1,786,770	0	113,027	938,407	1,886	671,900	61,550	37.6	43.8
1997	1,505,145	0	97,320	738,808	2,074	606,224	60,719	40.3	47.4
1998	1,520,538	0	95,990	701,365	3,831	656,533	62,819	43.2	50.5
1999	1,528,217	0	105,819	688,965	4,003	665,028	64,402	43.5	51.3
2000	1,612,826	2,616	156,525	687,841	3,823	693,126	68,895	43.0	52.4
2001	1,749,572	3,288	203,387	725,850	3,501	737,589	75,957	42.2	52.7
2002	1,959,039	5,325	278,291	810,309	3,565	778,916	82,633	39.9	51.4
2003	2,112,577	12,669	342,201	866,732	3,418	794,665	92,892	37.8	50.5
2004	2,246,392	53,315	431,182	880,643	3,276	781,207	96,769	35.6	49.8
2005	2,326,784	157,289	561,837	829,128	2,802	693,728	82,000	32.0	48.3
2006	2,377,892	269,835	629,968	823,790	2,092	586,857	65,350	27.8	44.1
<i>Under age 18</i>									
1992	376,812	0	16,695	148,221	103	204,083	7,710	54.2	58.8
1993	500,676	0	18,788	240,668	135	232,344	8,741	46.4	50.0
1994	530,538	0	16,897	311,137	147	194,655	7,702	36.7	39.4
1995	491,638	0	14,364	306,298	92	163,896	6,988	33.3	35.8
1996	457,057	0	13,532	291,265	86	144,670	7,504	31.7	34.3
1997	334,975	0	10,906	195,730	69	121,439	6,831	36.3	39.6
1998	338,592	0	10,904	182,596	74	137,653	7,365	40.7	44.3
1999	345,067	0	11,898	182,427	68	142,862	7,812	41.4	45.2
2000	355,477	244	15,775	179,441	64	151,991	7,962	42.8	47.1
2001	375,975	226	18,710	182,070	61	166,387	8,521	44.3	49.0
2002	412,972	355	22,678	200,411	79	180,364	9,085	43.7	48.6
2003	438,601	826	25,776	214,243	64	188,001	9,691	42.9	48.0
2004	451,735	4,657	31,539	217,626	83	187,883	9,947	42.0	47.6
2005	445,449	14,711	46,839	201,557	97	172,584	9,661	40.1	47.5
2006	453,836	26,289	49,933	203,421	85	164,711	9,397	38.5	46.1

(Continued)

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**Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by age and year of application, 1992–2006—*Continued***

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials <sup>a</sup>	Medical decisions				Award rate <sup>b</sup> (percent)	Allowance rate <sup>c</sup> (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical <sup>d</sup>	Awards	Subsequent denials <sup>e</sup>		
<i>Aged 18–64</i>									
1992	1,451,417	0	117,675	593,455	1,451	656,374	82,462	45.2	55.4
1993	1,547,527	0	122,364	696,934	1,463	646,157	80,609	41.8	51.0
1994	1,482,503	0	106,181	729,927	1,529	575,431	69,435	38.8	46.9
1995	1,351,903	0	88,839	688,438	1,245	519,041	54,340	38.4	45.4
1996	1,277,604	0	87,869	646,497	1,534	488,215	53,489	38.2	45.5
1997	1,135,602	0	78,303	541,988	1,456	461,006	52,849	40.6	48.6
1998	1,133,015	0	76,709	516,708	1,860	483,866	53,872	42.7	50.9
1999	1,133,722	0	83,733	505,202	1,542	487,820	55,425	43.0	51.7
2000	1,208,866	2,370	127,968	507,367	1,423	509,772	59,966	42.3	52.8
2001	1,323,142	3,054	167,675	542,834	1,398	541,642	66,539	41.0	52.8
2002	1,483,791	4,964	230,118	608,806	1,580	565,745	72,578	38.3	51.1
2003	1,615,844	11,834	287,736	651,689	1,825	580,359	82,401	36.2	50.4
2004	1,733,410	48,641	366,069	662,389	1,877	568,314	86,120	33.7	49.6
2005	1,807,363	142,542	472,425	627,023	1,620	492,012	71,741	29.6	47.3
2006	1,851,839	243,474	534,414	619,896	1,122	397,573	55,360	24.7	42.2

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Disability Research File, 100 percent data.

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through August 2007. Data for the hearing level or above are current through September 2007.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change over time. Cases can be pending at the initial or appellate levels and can include either medical or technical issues.

Includes decisions for SSI-only applications and applications for both Social Security and SSI. Does not include Social Security-only applications.

- a. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons so no decision was made on severity of impairment.
- b. Rate determined by dividing awards by all applications minus pending claims for that year.
- c. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.
- d. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- e. Applications denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- f. Includes applicants aged 65 or older.

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